

# **Sierra Nevada Conservancy**

## **Action Plan**

**July 2006 – June 2007**

# SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

## OVERALL BUDGET

July 20, 2006

### THE FIRST YEAR 2005-06

\$ IN THOUSANDS

#### AUTHORIZED BUDGET

**\$3,600**

FUNDS REAPPROPRIATED TO 2006-07

**-\$276**

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR EXPENSES

**\$3,324**

#### SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

HEADQUARTERS OFFICE \$115

CONSULTING AGREEMENTS 750

REGIONAL OFFICE 225

EQUIPMENT/VEHICLES 350

STAFF & OPERATING EXPENSES \$600

TOTAL 2005-06 FISCAL ACTIVITIES

**-\$2,040**

PROJECTED UNEXPENDED BALANCE JUNE 30, 2006

**\$1,284**

### SECOND YEAR BUDGET 2006-07

#### AUTHORIZED BUDGET

**\$3,662**

FUNDS REAPPROPRIATED TO 2006-07

**\$276**

#### SIGNIFICANT EXPENSES ANTICIPATED

**\$3,938**

CONSULTING AGREEMENTS \$1,400

FACILITIES OPERATIONS 400

EQUIPMENT/VEHICLES 350

STAFF & OPERATING EXPENSES \$1,788

TOTAL 2005-06 FISCAL ACTIVITIES

**\$3,938**

PROJECTED UNEXPENDED BALANCE JUNE 30, 2007

**\$0**

## **Organizational and Staffing Overview**

In order to successfully implement the Action Plan, the SNC will use a combination of full time staff, retired annuitants and consultants. We also hope to receive assistance from a variety of state, federal and local agency partners. The SNC will also work with non-governmental partners in gaining assistance, information and expertise.

The Executive Officer is primarily responsible for overseeing the effective completion of the Action Plan. The Program Manager (Bob Kingman) will have responsibility for coordinating and monitoring implementation of the Action Plan. All SNC staff will consider the implementation of the action plan as a top priority.

Progress on implementing the Action Plan (and the Strategic Plan) will be regularly reported on the SNC website. It is anticipated that a mid fiscal year report will be given to the Board at the December board meeting and a year end summary at the July 2007 board meeting.

## **The Process**

The SNC will work collaboratively with a wide range of partners in carrying out the actions called for in the Action Plan. It is anticipated that numerous meetings will be held throughout the region, assuring ample opportunity for area residents to participate. It is also anticipated that outreach efforts in the state's major metropolitan areas will occur in order to assure that these areas recognize the important benefits that accrue from the region.

### **Organizational Strategic Goals**

The attached summary of actions identifies those items that will be addressed in the last half of 2006 and the first half of 2007, as well as those that are ongoing. The SNC will collaborate with interested parties in implementing these goals.

### **Program Goals**

The 36 actions called for in the program goals do not have specific timelines associated with them. SNC staff will work with interested parties in developing appropriate plans for each action, including timelines as appropriate. The development of program guidelines consistent with the Actions will be the primary manner in which specifics are developed.

Generally, sub regional meetings and discussions will continue to focus on the full range of program goals emphasizing the importance of viewing them as "a program" rather than 7 separate goals. This will allow community input on specific activities and priorities for each sub region, recognizing the interrelationship between the various program areas.

In addition, it is anticipated that advisory groups will be formed to focus on the various program areas. Any interested party may participate, with the goal being to create opportunities for the SNC to benefit from the experience, expertise and knowledge that exists in the region and throughout the state.

# **Sierra Nevada Conservancy**

## **Strategic Plan Actions**

### **Fiscal Year 2006-07**

#### **Organizational Strategic Goals**

##### **July 06 – January 07**

- Establish the SNC interim headquarters in Auburn (April 2006).  
(Complete)
- Identify and make available access to key federal, state and local plans and other documents affecting the region to be considered in the development of program guidelines and priorities (June 2006 - Ongoing).  
(Completed)
- Conduct an informational needs assessment of governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, private landowners, educational institutions, and other interested parties, to determine existing relevant information relating to SNC's mission, significant information gaps and potential sources of new information. In doing so, the SNC will build upon and enhance existing information infrastructure (January 2007).
- Conduct a regional assessment to determine existing and potential regional and community education, shared learning and research projects that the SNC can support and enhance (January 2007).
- Develop a program activity tracking system to ensure equitable distribution, over time, of resources across the region, subregions and programs recognizing the need to act based on opportunity, available funding and regional differences (January 2007).
- Develop and communicate funding needs of the region to the public, SNC partners, and decision makers at all levels (Ongoing, initial needs assessment January 2007).

##### **January 07- July 07**

- Develop, in collaboration with other organizations, environmental, economic and social well being indices to monitor the progress in the various program and geographic areas. The indices will identify the key indicators to be monitored and measured and clearly identify performance standards (July 2007).

- Determine location of a permanent headquarters location that will meet the SNC's needs and add economic value to the community (July 2007)
- Establish satellite office locations based on available staff and resources and operational needs (July 2007).
- Assess preferred dissemination methods, technological needs and data limitations of SNC partners. Develop overall data acquisition and, dissemination requirements and a strategy to address SNC statutory and organizational needs, with an emphasis on improving communities' ability to access and use information (July 2007).
- Based on this assessment and the information technology assessment, work with communities to develop a plan to address technological, communication, and technical assistance needs (July 2007).
- Develop an education and communication plan to support increased understanding of the importance of the Sierra Nevada within the region and throughout the state (October 2007).
- Leverage and improve funding options and opportunities by identifying and communicating potential funding sources to those engaged in project activities consistent with SNC's mission (Ongoing, with an initial inventory of funding sources by October 2007).

### **Ongoing**

- Ensure an open and transparent decision-making process by adopting understandable rules, guidelines, and procedures for SNC business.
- Conduct an ongoing robust public outreach and feedback program within the region and in other key geographic areas important to the success of the program.
- Support integrated regional and sub regional planning efforts, consistent with the SNC's mission.
- Identify and secure additional opportunities for stable funding for the SNC from all sources.

### **Programmatic Goals**

The programmatic goals identify a series of actions for which specific timeframes have not been established. The next phase in the Program area, as identified in the Action Plan, will provide greater specificity, identify sub regional priorities and opportunities, and create program guidelines. During the course of this process, timeframes will be established, as will performance measures for the Programmatic actions. SNC staff will continue to collaborate with the full range of stakeholders, treating the program goals as an interrelated set of activities, rather than individual programs. Staff will also seek sub regional perspectives as well as

identify and utilize specific expertise, experience, and knowledge on various program areas within the region and the state.

While most of the Program Goals are expected to be ongoing in nature and subject to annual review, there are approximately ten (10) that have identifiable deliverable products, such as lists, studies, and inventories. Staff will be analyzing opportunities to coordinate work in all goal areas to maximize possibilities for shared benefits and will also be developing implementation schedules. Work to be completed on the Organizational Goals is expected to greatly advance progress in completing a number of Programmatic Goals. Staff anticipates presenting a more refined schedule for implementation of Programmatic Goals and deliverables at the Board's October meeting.

### ***Program Goal 1: Tourism and Recreation***

#### **Provide Increased Opportunities for Tourism and Recreation**

##### **Program Action 1**

- Action 1.1: Identify top priority tourism and recreational opportunities, including those in non-traditional activities such as eco-tourism, agri-tourism and heritage related tourism. Promote opportunities consistent with the integration of environmental, economic and social benefits.
- Action 1.2: Develop and make available a comprehensive guide to recreational and tourism opportunities in the Sierra, in cooperation with other organizations within the region.
- Action 1.3: Identify funding sources relative to tourism and recreation that may be utilized to complement the SNC activities in order to achieve objectives.
- Action 1.4: Develop and make available a list of resources, consultants, organizations, etc. with skills, expertise and knowledge to assist communities with projects consistent with this goal.
- Action 1.5: Identify and promote opportunities to enhance recreational and tourism activities in the non-peak and "shoulder" seasons.
- Action 1.6: Provide opportunities on public lands through increased management capabilities and new trails and access.
- Action 1.7: Promote opportunities on private land by supporting resource and amenity conservation and restoration projects associated with private creation of recreational use.

***Program Goal 2: Physical, Cultural, Archaeological, Historical, and Living Resources***

**Protect, Conserve, and Restore the Region's Physical, Cultural, Archaeological, Historical, and Living Resources**

**Program Action 2**

- Action 2.1: Identify priority projects, partners and mechanisms, that protect, conserve and restore physical and natural resources, watersheds, wildlife habitat and other living resources.
- Action 2.2: Identify priority projects, partners and mechanisms that protect, conserve and restore cultural, archaeological and historical resources.
- Action 2.3: Identify critical information needs at the regional and community level to assist in assessing resource protection needs.
- Action 2.4: Identify specific funding sources that may complement the SNC activities in order to achieve program objectives.
- Action 2.5: Develop a strategy to work in partnership with other governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other interested parties to identify information, assistance and resources needed to support community projects that protect, conserve and restore these important assets.
- Action 2.6: Develop a strategy to partner with local governments to identify information, technical assistance and resources that would be of value in local land use decision making.
- Action 2.7: Facilitate and foster good planning and education efforts to protect and enhance ecosystem and watershed health, sustainable working landscapes and economically viable communities.

***Program Goal 3: Working Landscapes***  
**Aid in the Preservation of Working Landscapes**

**Program Action 3**

- Action 3.1: Collaborate with governmental and non-governmental partners in identifying willing landowners interested in preserving their working landscapes through conservation easements and similar mechanisms.
- Action 3.2: Identify incentive-based programs (including those complementing and enhancing regulatory efforts) to assist in preserving working landscapes consistent with achieving sustainable environmental protection, natural resource conservation and watershed management objectives.
- Action 3.3: Identify opportunities for more cohesive public and private land management, including “checkerboard” ownership patterns, by identifying and facilitating potential voluntary land exchanges.
- Action 3.4: Identify incentives to private and public landowners to manage the upper watershed to increase natural water storage and groundwater recharge.
- Action 3.5: Facilitate local, regional and state planning to encourage upper watershed conservation efforts that result in increased natural water storage, groundwater recharge and habitat improvement.
- Action 3.6: Provide regional perspective and coordination expertise to help local planning efforts consistent with working landscape goals; assist communities in minimizing adverse impacts of public land management on private working landscapes.

***Program Goal 4: Natural Disaster Risks***  
**Reduce the Risk of Natural Disasters, such as Wildfires**

**Program Action 4**

- Action 4.1: Collaborate with state and federal land managers to identify projects and activities that will reduce risks of, and prepare for, natural disasters on public lands.
- Action 4.2: Assist communities in the development and implementation of firesafe community plans, flood prevention and other natural disaster prevention and response community-based plans. Collaborate with local governments and community-based organizations to create incentives for hazard mitigation and disaster planning.
- Action 4.3: Collaborate with federal, state and local fire agencies to identify opportunities for the SNC to assist in risk reduction efforts on private lands.

- Action 4.4: In cooperation with local governments, identify strategies to reduce the wildland-urban interface fire risk created by building structures that are within or encroach upon adjacent wildlands.<sup>1</sup>
- Action 4.5: Provide assistance to the Region in the development and implementation of alternative, multi-benefit natural disaster risk reduction programs such as bio-fuel creation.

### ***Program Goal 5: Water and Air Quality***

#### **Protect and improve water and air quality.**

##### **Program Action 5**

- Action 5.1: Identify and support incentive-based programs that complement and enhance regulatory efforts to achieve environmental protection and sustainability goals..
- Action 5.2: Identify and support priority projects aimed at assessing, protecting, and improving watershed health, particularly those that provide multiple benefits.
- Action 5.3: Develop and make available a list of funding sources, resources, consultants, and organizations with skills, expertise and knowledge to assist communities with projects consistent with this goal.
- Action 5.4: Provide incentives for watershed restoration projects resulting in upper watershed health, water quality improvement and water source conservation efforts.
- Action 5.5: Engage in cooperative efforts with agencies and other partners aimed at educating about, planning for and monitoring the effects of climate change on the Sierra Nevada Region. As an example, investigate technology and program options for carbon sequestration.

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<sup>1</sup> Where houses and other human development meet or intermingle with wildland vegetation and wildfire poses a significant risk to human lives and structures.

## ***Program Goal 6: Regional Economy***

**Assist the regional economy through the operation of the Conservancy's program**

### **Program Action 6**

- Action 6.1: To the maximum extent feasible, focus the SNC's expenditures and conduct activities within the region, utilizing community businesses.
- Action 6.2: When investing in the SNC's information technology system and other infrastructure, factor in approaches to increase value to the region.
- Action 6.3: Identify resources and assistance that will benefit communities in efforts to improve their economic well-being.
- Action 6.4: Assist in growing and diversifying local economies that are compatible with the area's natural resources, through innovative investments and economic development that are regionally distinctive.

## ***Program Goal 7: Public Lands***

**Undertake efforts to enhance public use and enjoyment of lands owned by the public.**

### **Program Action 7**

- Action 7.1: Support community efforts to identify specific opportunities for sustainable public use and enjoyment of public lands. This includes conservation and restoration projects that result in public use.
- Action 7.2: Develop and support, in consultation with state and federal land managers, sustainable projects that meet this objective, consistent with the land management agencies' objectives and responsibilities.